

HENRY E. MARBLE AND OTHERS.

MAY 4, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. ELIOT, from the Committee on Commerce, made the following

REPORT.

*The Committee on Commerce, to whom were referred the petitions to authorize a change of the name of the sloop "Artist," of Somerset, report:*

That on application to the Treasury Department it appears that should a change in the name of vessels follow the many changes of tonnage and rig, much confusion would be produced in the tonnage records of the department, and, without some adequate reason therefor, your committee are averse to authorizing such changes. No such reasons appearing in this case, I am directed to report adversely to the granting the prayer of the petitioners.

The communication from the Treasury Department is annexed hereto.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *March 27, 1860.*

SIR: I have the honor to return herewith the memorial of Henry E. Marble and others, for a change of name of the sloop "Artist," and have to state in reply, that I find the only reason alleged for the change is, that the vessel has been repaired and enlarged. Similar changes in the tonnage of vessels, and their denomination and rigging is, as you are well aware, of very frequent occurrence; and if allowed in every case, would, to a great extent, subvert the policy of the existing law, and produce much confusion in our tonnage records.

In view of the past legislation of Congress on this subject, and the injury that might result from this case as a precedent, I must decline to recommend that the prayer of the memorialists be granted.

I am, very respectfully,

HOWELL COBB,  
*Secretary of the Treasury.*

Hon. E. B. WASHBURN,  
*Chairman of the Committee on Commerce,  
House of Representatives.*

